

in 1975. Since that time, if you'll look at the handout, you'll find that we have had a series of elections to elect NRD district members and what we have found is a consistent pattern of, number one, a lack of candidates so that in many cases there is no candidate or maybe just one candidate, and as a result, no choice is offered to the public in terms of who they want to represent them on the NRD and then, secondly, even when they do have a choice, in many cases you have resignations and appointments that follow because people that do get elected don't have the time for it and then don't really serve very long. If you'll look at this you'll see there 173 subdistricts and of those there were really a choice to the public this last year of 25 cases. So 25 out of 173 subdistricts offered to the voters a choice in the election. Why you can just multiply that out, 25 into 173 and you know you're talking about a mere fraction of the races for NRD boards give the voters any choice. The other races have either no candidate or just one candidate. Now if this is democracy in action, then we're all in serious trouble because to have such a poor turnout of candidates and thus support interest in NRDs is a real mistake for this state. NRDs are a very important subdivision of government in this state. They do a lot of things in terms of water. They do a lot of things in terms of land. They do a lot of things in terms of our natural resources in general. They are a very important subdivision of government and to have such a poor turnout for candidates is a recognition of the poor election process that they are working through and the poor recognition of NRDs in general. If you also look at the handout you'll see the drop-off in NRD elections. We have very few people running for NRDs. We also have very few people voting on those NRD elections. For the most part NRD elections have about a 37 percent to 51 percent drop-off. That is to say about one-third to one-half the people that vote won't vote on the NRD elections that they are presented with. They just won't vote. Either they don't have a choice maybe or the choices that they have they don't know who they are voting for so they just say, I don't know who they are or I don't know what an NRD is and they don't even vote. This is far higher than the other types of votes that have to be made. If you'll look at the handout you'll see a Governor gets only 1.7 percent drop-off off; a County Commissioner maybe 35 percent, but the NRDs are far worse than even that so that you have voter lack of interest and lack of participation. So, number one, the election process isn't